

watch a Club member be the first in their family to walk across a stage to receive a high school diploma, and see the pride light up in their eyes, keeps her believing that every day is an opportunity to be great.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF ROBINSON

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief C.A. "Andy" Robinson and his outstanding service to our state. Chief Robinson has spent much of his life as a law enforcement officer and is a dedicated and compassionate member of our community.

Chief Robinson has spent 25 years serving his community and as a law enforcement officer for various municipal and county agencies. Throughout the last eleven years, he has served as Chief for the York Police Department. Under Chief Robinson's leadership, the York Police Department has implemented a community policing philosophy to foster and bridge connections with businesses, local civics organizations, churches, schools, and citizens across York. Some of these initiatives include York's National Night Out, hosting summer youth camps, fundraisers, blood drives, and holiday outreach programs.

In addition to his outstanding work in law enforcement, Chief Robinson also serves on numerous boards and committees. For example, Chief Robinson is a past President of the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association (SCPCA). He has also served as Chairman of the York County Law Enforcement Governing Board since 2011 and is an active member of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers' Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the FBI National Academy Associations. Additionally, Chief Robinson has spoken to several South Carolina House and Senate subcommittees on various topics.

Chief Robinson is dependable, compassionate, and has earned the respect of law enforcement and citizens all over South Carolina. He has exceeded expectations in service to our state, highlighted by his receipt of numerous honors and accolades. For example, Chief Robinson is the only York Police Chief to receive the Strom Thurmond Award for Excellence in Law Enforcement, which is the highest law enforcement honor in the state. He also received an award for Outstanding Service to the Community of York by the York Men's Club.

On behalf of the 5th District of South Carolina, it is my most sincere pleasure to recognize Chief Robinson for his outstanding leadership and service to our state. I wish him the best of luck throughout his future endeavors, as I am confident he will continue to serve and find great success in all that he does.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAT MITZVAH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the centennial anniversary of the first Bat Mitzvah of an American girl, which took place on March 18, 1922, at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism (SAJ) in New York City.

At 12 years of age, Judith Kaplan became the first girl on American soil to formally step into the Jewish community by becoming a Bat Mitzvah (daughter of the commandments). Her father, Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan, founded SAJ just three months prior, in January of 1922. He believed strongly that girls should have equal religious opportunities, so he arranged for his daughter to read from the Torah soon after the synagogue was created.

This momentous occasion helped begin the meaningful inclusion of women and girls in Jewish religious life. Bat Mitzvahs became common place, Jewish women started to serve in leadership roles in synagogues and organizations, and exactly 50 years later, the first female rabbi in American history was ordained by a rabbinical seminary.

Judith Kaplan's Bat Mitzvah was also the first in a long line of countless innovative and groundbreaking advancements in Jewish thought and practice by SAJ and their leadership.

Rabbi Kaplan established SAJ as the first synagogue based on the principles of Reconstruction, which views Judaism as a constantly evolving civilization. He believed that Jewish life was rooted in tradition but also able to adapt alongside the ever-changing circumstances of wider society under that guiding principle.

Since Rabbi Kaplan's pioneering tenure, SAJ has continued to live up to his powerful legacy of American Jewish innovation. The synagogue is considered a cornerstone of Jewish life in New York's Upper West Side. SAJ, led by an all-female clergy and staff, is an intellectual stalwart in the community that is dedicated to practicing a modern, American, egalitarian form of Judaism. They advance Jewish education, arts, music, and cultural self-expression as vital to the religious practice.

SAJ upholds the Jewish tenet of tikkun olam, a Hebrew phrase that means to repair the world. The synagogue embodies this teaching by working for economic, immigrant, and reproductive justice; affirming LGBTQ+ members and interfaith families; and actively supporting and partnering with New York City's Westside Campaign Against Hunger to fight against food insecurity.

I honor Judith Kaplan's courage and celebrate the 100th anniversary of her groundbreaking Bat Mitzvah.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Society for the Advancement of Judaism's remarkable contributions to the Jewish community in New York City and all over the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM J. THORNTON, RECIPIENT OF THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK SWINGLE AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor William J. Thornton who will be awarded the W. Francis Swingle Award by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick at their annual gathering on March 17, 2022.

Bill, son of Bill Thornton and Kathie Bender Elechko, was raised in West Pittston, Pennsylvania, along with his four siblings. He graduated from Wyoming Area High School with the Class of 1994, and he attended Penn State University where he earned a degree in management science and information systems. He later went on to receive an MBA in finance from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

Bill began his career as a technology consultant working in the Philadelphia area with life sciences companies including Pfizer, Roche, Johnson & Johnson, and Eli Lilly. He then transitioned to working as a computer programmer for Amgen, a biotech company that specializes in products for treatment of blood disorders, osteoporosis, and other inflammatory conditions. Continuing his work on the technical side of health care, Bill joined the team at Allergan, a global leader in medical aesthetics, eye care, and neurological disorders. He spent 11 years at Allergan as an IT executive working across business units in research and development, manufacturing, sales, and marketing, and he was the IT leader for the emerging markets of Latin America and Asia, supporting 17 countries and \$1 billion in revenue. Bill currently serves as the Chief Information Officer for Sarepta Therapeutics in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His role at Sarepta supports their mission to engineer solutions for rare diseases with science that is on the forefront of precision genetic medicine. Bill is also a partner and member of Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan School of Management.

Bill is a sustaining member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. His maternal grandfather, Ted Bender, proudly served as the 60th president of the organization in 1973. Bill was awarded the Friendly Sons Annual Student Scholarship in 1994, and his wife, Susan, was a scholarship recipient in 1995.

Bill is a dedicated volunteer and is actively involved in his local community to support youth sports and school events. He and his wife have three daughters, Erin, Emily, and Allie.

I am honored to join with the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in recognizing Bill as the 2022 Swingle Award Winner. He has dedicated his career to supporting cutting edge medical research in the life sciences industry while also volunteering his time to support his community. May he continue to find fulfillment in his work and giving back to his fellow citizens.